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BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

MARCH 7th, 1884.

Read and ordered to be printed.

By order,

THOMAS H. MOORE,  
*Chief Clerk.*

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# REPORT

OF THE

## Commissioner of Maryland

FOR

Surveying and Marking the Boundary Line between  
the States of Maryland and Virginia,

TO THE

### GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND,

*January 16th, 1884.*

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ANNAPOLIS:

JAMES YOUNG, STATE PRINTER.

1884.



# REPORT.

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POCOMOKE CITY, MD., January 16, 1884.

*To his Excellency, ROBERT M. McLANE, Governor of Maryland.*

SIR: Pursuant to the requirements of the act of 1882, chapter 159, I have the honor to make to your excellency the following report:

On the 12th day of April, 1879, I received from the Honorable John Lee Carroll, then Governor of Maryland, the following commission:

## THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

*To WILLIAM J. AYDELOTT, of Worcester county, Esquire, greeting:*

BE IT KNOWN, That reposing especial trust and confidence in your judgment and integrity, you are hereby appointed commissioner under the act of the General Assembly of 1878, chapter 374, which provides for surveying and marking the boundary line between the States of Maryland and Virginia; to hold the said office until you shall be duly discharged therefrom, and to execute the duties thereof with diligence and fidelity, and without favor, affection or partiality, according to law.



Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Maryland, at the city of Annapolis, on this ninth day of April, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and seventy-nine.

JOHN LEE CARROLL.

By the Governor:

R. C. HOLLYDAY,

*Secretary of State.*

The above paper was recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Worcester county, and correspondence with Mr. George H. Bozwell, commissioner for Virginia, commenced. Gen-

eral preliminaries arranged. One meeting of commissioners held in Baltimore for the purchase of granite stone bounders, &c. Upon my return from Baltimore I addressed the following communication to Governor Carroll:

POCOMOKE CITY, MD., June 2, 1879.

MY DEAR GOVERNOR: You will allow me to solicit instructions in reference to our state boundary line survey. I have no advices relative to the topographical engineer expected from the war department. I have made some inquiry as to prices of suitable stone monuments for land purposes, but find the water line, as indicated by the award, so very indefinite and difficult that I have taken no steps in relation to buoys or water bounders, and will await your directions in that particular. What appropriation has been made by our state legislature for Maryland's part of the expenses, I will be happy to receive advices from your excellency in the premises.

Allow me to remain, your excellency's obedient servant,  
WM. J. AYDELOTT.

To the above, I received the following reply:

ANNAPOLIS, June 6, 1879.

COL. WM J. AYDELOTT.

MY DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 2d is received. Major Lockwood was detailed by the war department to make the survey, but when it was found that there was no appropriation, he was ordered back to his post.

He made an estimate of the cost of making the line, which I filed. And I do not see that anything can be done until the legislature meets. Regretting I can give nothing more definite,

I remain, very truly yours,

JOHN LEE CARROLL.

Upon receipt of intelligence in Governor Carroll's letter, all action by the state commissions was suspended.

A bill, giving the consent of congress to an agreement or compact entered into between the states of Virginia and Maryland, respecting the boundary between said states.

WHEREAS arbitrators duly appointed on the part of the State of Virginia, and on the part of the State of Maryland, for the



purpose of ascertaining and fixing the boundary between the States of Virginia and Maryland, did proceed in the premises to examine into and ascertain the true line of said boundary, and did award as to the same in words following, to wit:

#### AWARD.

And now, to wit, January sixteenth, Anno Domini eighteen hundred and seventy-seven, the undersigned, being a majority of the arbitrators to whom the States of Virginia and Maryland, by acts of their respective legislatures, submitted the controversies concerning their territorial limits, with authority to ascertain and determine the true line of boundary between them, having heard the allegations of said states, and examined the proofs on both sides, do find, declare, award, ascertain and determine that the true line of boundary between the said states, as far as they are conterminous with one another, is as follows:

Beginning at the point on the Potomac river where the line between Virginia and West Virginia strikes the said river at low water mark, and thence, following the meanderings of said river, by the low water mark, to Smith's point, at or near the mouth of the Potomac, in the latitude thirty-seven degrees, fifty-three minutes, eight seconds, and longitude seventy-six degrees, thirteen minutes, forty-six seconds; thence crossing the waters of the Chesapeake bay, by a line running north sixty-five degrees, thirty minutes, east about nine and a-half nautical miles, to a point on the western shore of Smith's island, at the north end of Sassafra's hammock, in latitude thirty-seven degrees, fifty-seven minutes, thirteen seconds, longitude seventy-six degrees, two minutes, fifty-two seconds; thence across Smith's island, south eighty-eight degrees, thirty minutes, east five thousand six hundred and twenty yards, to the centre of Horse hammock, on the eastern shore of Smith's island, in latitude thirty-seven degrees, fifty-seven minutes, eight seconds, longitude seventy-five degrees, fifty-nine minutes, east four thousand eight hundred and eighty yards, to a point marked A on the accompanying map, in the middle of Tangier sound, in latitude thirty-seven degrees, fifty-six minutes, forty-two seconds, longitude seventy-five degrees, fifty-six minutes, twenty-three seconds, said point bearing from Jones' island light south fifty-four degrees west, and distant from that three thousand five hundred and sixty yards; thence south ten degrees,

thirty minutes, west four thousand seven hundred and forty yards, by a line dividing the waters of Tangier sound, to a point where it intersects the straight line from Smith's point to Watkins' point, said point of intersection being in latitude thirty-seven degrees, fifty-four minutes, twenty-one seconds, longitude seventy-five degrees, fifty-six minutes, fifty-five seconds, bearing from Jones' island light south twenty-nine degrees, thirty minutes east; this point of intersection is marked B on the accompanying map; thence north eighty-five degrees, fifteen minutes, east six thousand seven hundred and twenty yards along the line above mentioned, which runs from Smith's point to Watkins' point, until it reaches the latter spot, namely, Watkins' point, which is in latitude thirty-seven degrees, fifty-four minutes, thirty-eight seconds, longitude seventy-five degrees, fifty-two minutes, forty-four seconds. From Watkins' point the boundary line runs due east seven thousand eight hundred and eighty yards, to a point where it meets a line running through the middle of Pocomoke sound, which is marked C on the accompanying map, and is in latitude thirty-seven degrees, fifty-four minutes, thirty-eight seconds, longitude seventy-five degrees, forty-seven minutes, fifty seconds; thence by a line dividing the waters of Pocomoke sound, north forty-seven degrees, thirty minutes, east five thousand two hundred and twenty yards, to a point in said sound marked D on the accompanying map, in latitude thirty-seven degrees, fifty-six minutes, twenty-five seconds, longitude seventy-five degrees, forty-five minutes, twenty-six seconds; thence following the middle of the Pocomoke river by a line of irregular curves, as laid down on the accompanying map, until it intersects the westward protraction of the boundary line marked by Scarborough and Calvert, May twenty-eighth, sixteen hundred and sixty-eight, at a point in the middle of Pocomoke river, and in latitude thirty-seven degrees, fifty-nine minutes, thirty-seven seconds, longitude seventy-five degreee, thirty-seven minutes, four seconds; thence by the Scarborough and Calvert line, which runs five degrees, fifteen minutes north of east, to the Atlantic ocean. The latitudes, longitudes, courses and distances here given have been measured upon the coast chart, number thirty-three, of the United States coast survey, sheet number three, Chesapeake bay, which is herewith filed as part of this award, and explanatory thereof. The original charter line is marked upon the said map and shaded in

blue; the present line of boundary, as ascertained and determined, is also marked and shaded in red, while the yellow indicates the line referred to in the compact of seventeen hundred and eighty-five between Smith's point and Watkins' point. In further explanation of this award the arbitrators deem it proper to add that—

First. The measurements being taken and places fixed according to the coast survey, we have come as near to perfect mathematical accuracy as in the nature of things is possible; but in case of any inaccuracy in the described course or length of a line, or in the latitude or longitude of a place, the natural objects called for must govern.

Second. The middle thread of Pocomoke river is equidistant, as nearly as may be, between the two shores, without considering arms, inlets, creeks or affluents as parts of the river, but measuring the shore lines from headland to headland.

Third. The low water mark on the Potomac to which Virginia has a right in the soil is to be measured by the same rule, that is to say, from low water mark at one headland to low water mark at another, without following indentations, bays, creeks, inlets or affluent rivers.

Fourth. Virginia is entitled not only to full dominion over the soil to low water mark on the south shore of the Potomac, but has a right to such use of the river beyond the line of low water mark as may be necessary to the full enjoyment of her riparian ownership, without impeding the navigation or otherwise interfering with the proper use of it by Maryland, agreeably to the compact of seventeen hundred and eighty-five.

In testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our hands the day and year aforesaid.

J. S. BLACK, of *Pennsylvania*.

CHAS. J. JENKINS, of *Georgia*.

A. W. GRAHAM, *Secretary*.

And whereas the said award has been ratified and confirmed by the legislatures of the States of Virginia and Maryland respectively: therefore—

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the consent of the Congress of the United States is hereby given to the*

said agreement or award, and to each and every part and article thereof; provided that nothing therein contained shall be construed to impair or in any manner affect any right of jurisdiction of the United States in and over the islands and waters which form the subject of the said agreement or award.

AN ACT OF THE MARYLAND LEGISLATURE, MAKING APPROPRIATION FOR MARYLAND'S PART OF EXPENSES OF SURVEY, &c.

WHEREAS the arbitrators to whom were submitted the controversies between the States of Maryland and Virginia, concerning their territorial limits, have filed their award, determining and declaring the boundary line of the said states, so far as they are conterminous; and whereas, the said boundary line, so as aforesaid determined, has been accepted by the States of Virginia and Maryland respectively, and has also been ratified by the Congress of the United States, as required by the constitution of the United States; and whereas, it is necessary that said boundary line should be surveyed and designated by monuments of a durable character, so that its precise location may be readily ascertained by the citizens of each of the states, as aforesaid; and whereas, the State of Virginia has appropriated the sum of eighteen hundred dollars on her part, for the purpose of marking said line and erecting said monuments, which makes it incumbent upon the State of Maryland to appropriate a like sum for the same purpose; and whereas, the State of Virginia has appointed a commissioner on her part to mark said line and erect said monuments, who shall act jointly with a commissioner of the State of Maryland, representing the latter state; and whereas, by chapter three hundred and seventy-four, of the acts of the General Assembly of the State of Maryland, passed at the January session, eighteen hundred and seventy-eight, the Hon. John Lee Carroll, then Governor of the State of Maryland, by virtue of said act, did appoint William J. Aydelott, of Worcester county, the commissioner on the part of the State of Maryland, to mark said line and erect monuments thereon; therefore—

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the said William J. Aydelott, who, together with a commissioner or commissioners, to be appointed by said State of Virginia, shall, in concert with each other, have the said line sur-



veyed, and so far as practicable and necessary, shall have the same defined and marked by suitable monuments, and to the end that said line may be run by persons of the highest skill; and as the same is a matter of federal concern, the governor is directed to solicit the war department at Washington, to detail one or more of the topographical engineers of the United States, who shall run, mark and bound said line, with such monuments to be placed therein, of the kind, number and description that the said engineers shall order and direct.

SECTION 2. *And be it enacted by the General Assembly*, That the sum of eighteen hundred dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated on the part of this state, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act and the necessary expenses connected therewith, on the part of the State of Maryland, and the comptroller of the treasury is hereby directed to draw his warrant upon the treasurer for the said sum, payable to the said William J. Aydelott, and it shall be the duty of the said William J. Aydelott to report to the governor of this state, an account of all his proceedings under this act, and a statement of the expenditures of said sum being appropriated, as soon as the same can be conveniently done.

SECTION 3. *And be it enacted*, That this act shall take effect from and after the date of its passage.

Letter to Governor Hamilton.

POCOMOKE CITY, MD., May 1, 1882.

*His Excellency*, WILLIAM T. HAMILTON, *Governor of Maryland*.

SIR: I beg to make inquiry of your excellency as to my duties as commissioner for Maryland in the matter of surveying and marking the boundary line between the States of Maryland and Virginia, as provided by act of our state legislature at its last session. The season is now opening propitious for field work, and as much delay will necessarily be occasioned in arranging preliminaries, I respectfully suggest early action.

Have you, in concert with the Governor of Virginia, "solicited the war department at Washington to detail a topographical engineer" for our services in the survey?

It was suggested by Lieut. Lockwood, three years ago, that iron bounders or monuments should be erected; but in my humble

judgment granite stone is far preferable to iron in our swamps and salt marshes of the sea side through which the line passes, as well as at its terminus at the ocean. I will be happy to be advised by your excellency on this subject, as well as upon all matters pertaining to my official labors in the execution of the trust.

I have the honor to remain your obedient servant,

WM. J. AYDELOTT.

Letter from Honorable James T. Briscoe, Secretary of State.

STATE OF MARYLAND, OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE,

ANNAPOLIS, May 29, 1882.

COL. WILLIAM J. AYDELOTT, *Pocomoke City, Md.*

MY DEAR SIR: So soon as the acts of assembly shall have been printed, and examined by the Governor, he will take the earliest opportunity of communicating with you on the subject of your duties thereunder. He will be here in a few days and I will call his attention to it.

Can you forward to the department the legislation of Virginia upon the subject, and a line in full explanation thereof?

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES T. BRISCOE.

Letter from Honorable James T. Briscoe, Secretary of State.

STATE OF MARYLAND, OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE,

ANNAPOLIS, July 21, 1882.

COL. WILLIAM J. AYDELOTT.

MY DEAR SIR: The Governor will be here on the 4th of August prox., and will take the necessary steps to carry into effect the act to survey and mark the boundary line between the States of Maryland and Virginia.

The necessary application can be made, and it would seem fit that you should make it in person, and I respectfully suggest that you meet the Governor on that day.

I have the honor to be,

JAMES T. BRISCOE,

*Secretary.*

To the above I made the following reply:

HON. JAMES T. BRISCOE.

MY DEAR SIR: Pursuant to suggestions in your esteemed favor of 21st instant, I will endeavor to meet the Governor in Annapolis on the 4th of August prox., for the purpose you mention.

I am faithfully yours,

WM. J. AYDELOTT.

Letter from Honorable James T. Briscoe, Secretary of State.

STATE OF MARYLAND, OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE,

ANNAPOLIS, September 26, 1882.

COL. WILLIAM J. AYDELOTT.

MY DEAR SIR: I have enclosed, by direction of Governor Hamilton, a copy of the act of assembly relative to the boundary line to the Governor of Virginia.

I presume when received he will write to the secretary of war, who has already assigned an engineer, and is waiting the action of Governor Cameron.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

JAMES T. BRISCOE,

*Secretary of State.*

I promptly replied to the above as follows:

POCOMOKE CITY, MD., September 30, 1882.

HON. JAMES T. BRISCOE.

MY DEAR SIR: Yours of the 26th is just at hand. I will hold myself in readiness to act upon instructions from our executive department relative to our state line survey at any day. I am in correspondence with Mr. Bozwell, who is also waiting instructions. I remain faithfully and obediently yours,

WM. J. AYDELOTT.

Letter from Honorable James T. Briscoe, Secretary of State.

STATE OF MARYLAND, OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE,

ANNAPOLIS, January 15, 1883.

COL. WILLIAM J. AYDELOTT.

DEAR SIR: Since the summer of 1882 you have been in constant communication with the executive department in respect to your duties, under the act of 1882, to adjust the boundary line between Maryland and Virginia.

So soon as the laws of the session were published, the governor addressed a letter to the Governor of Virginia, asking his co-operation, and one to the secretary of war, to which enclosed is answer, which will explain itself.

Would it not be well to enclose this response from the secretary of war, to Mr. Bozwell, your co-commissioner, and request that he make known the condition of the matter to Governor Cameron, who to this date has made no response to the letter of the Governor of Maryland.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

JAMES T. BRISCOE,

*Secretary of State.*

Letter from Honorable Robert T. Lincoln, Secretary of War, addressed to Hon. William T. Hamilton, Governor of Maryland.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON CITY, Sept. 1, 1882.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th ult., in which you enclose copies of the acts of the legislature of the States of Maryland and Virginia respectively, providing for surveying and marking the boundary line between those states, and for the erection of the necessary monuments thereon, and request that a United States engineer officer be detailed for said work.

In reply, I beg to inform you that an officer will be detailed, as desired, but it is deemed proper to await the receipt of a similar request from the Governor of Virginia. It should also be understood that all expenses of the survey, including the mileage of the officer to be detailed, from Wellet's point, New York, and return, are to be borne by the States of Maryland and Virginia, with this understanding, and upon receipt of a letter of request from the Governor of Virginia, Lieut O. M. Carter, corps of engineers U. S. army, will be detailed for the work in question.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBERT T. LINCOLN,

*Secretary of War.*

The Governor of the State of Maryland, Annapolis.

Letter from Honorable James T. Briscoe, Secretary of State.



STATE OF MARYLAND, OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE,

ANNAPOLIS, August 10, 1883.

COL. WILLIAM J. AYDELOTT.

MY DEAR SIR: Governor Hamilton will at once respond to the communication of the war department, accepting the conditions prescribed in executing the work on the boundary line. You had better see that a like letter is written at an early date by the Governor of Virginia.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully and obediently, yours,

JAMES T. BRISCOE.

Letter to the Honorable James T. Briscoe, Secretary of State.

POCOMOKE CITY, MD., March 19, 1883.

HON. JAMES T. BRISCOE.

MY DEAR SIR: Pursuant to your suggestions in your esteemed favor of the 15th of January, 1883, I addressed a communication to Mr. Bozwell, Commissioner for Virginia, enclosing copy of correspondence from the Honorable Robert T. Lincoln, Secretary of War, to Governor Hamilton. Mr. Bozwell replied promptly, commending our suggestions. But I am, since, in receipt of a second letter from the Virginia commissioner, expressing regret at not being able to report favorable action on the part of the Governor of Virginia. I now propose, with the concurrence of Governor Hamilton, to make a personal visit to Governor Cameron at Richmond, and place before him, in a courteous manner, our state acts and official correspondence on the subject, and beg from his excellency a final response.

I have the honor to remain,

Faithfully, your obedient servant,

WM. J. AYDELOTT.

Letter in response to the above by Honorable James T. Briscoe, Secretary of State.

STATE OF MARYLAND, OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE,

ANNAPOLIS, April 14, 1883.

COL. WILLIAM J. AYDELOTT.

MY DEAR SIR: Your letter indicating the propriety of a personal visit to Richmond has been submitted to the Governor.

Governor Hamilton expresses his approval of your suggestion

as likely to lead to an early consideration of the question touching the boundary line by the states respectively.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

JAMES T. BRISCOE.

Soon after my return from Richmond I received the following letter as the fruits of my personal interview with Governor Cameron :

STATE OF MARYLAND, OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE,

ANNAPOLIS, June 1, 1883.

COL. WILLIAM J. AYDELOTT.

MY DEAR SIR: The Governor of Virginia advises the executive to-day that he has made an application for the engineer necessary to execute the existing legislation on the subject of the boundary line between the two states. It is important that this matter should now have your attention.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

JAMES T. BRISCOE.

In reply to the foregoing letter I wrote the following :

POCOMOKE CITY, MD., June 5, 1883.

HON. JAMES T. BRISCOE.

MY DEAR SIR: I have your favor of 1st inst. informing me of favorable action of Governor Cameron of Virginia. I hold myself in readiness for prompt action. Please advise me of movements of the topographical engineer designated to aid in the work.

I have the honor to be,

Obediently and respectfully yours,

WM. J. AYDELOTT.

Letter from Honorable James T. Briscoe, Secretary of State.

STATE OF MARYLAND, OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE,

ANNAPOLIS, June 19, 1883.

HON. WILLIAM J. AYDELOTT.

MY DEAR SIR: I have the honor to advise you that the secretary of war has recommended that Lieutenant Fred. V. Abbot, corps of engineers at St. Louis, Mo., will be ordered to report in person to the chief of engineers, and by letter to the commissioners of the State of Maryland and Virginia, for duty, so soon

as the Governors of the States shall have accepted the conditions attached, which requires that all the expenses of the survey and the mileage of the engineer from St. Louis and return shall be assumed by the states respectively.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES T. BRISCOE.

Letter from Honorable James T. Briscoe, Secretary of State.

STATE OF MARYLAND, OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE.

ANNAPOLIS, July 12, 1883.

COL. WILLIAM J. AYDELOTT.

MY DEAR SIR: I respectfully suggest you will meet the board of public works on Thursday next, in Baltimore city, where they will assemble, and put them in possession of the necessity of detailing the steamboat, as indicated by you.

I have the honor to be, respectfully,

JAMES T. BRISCOE,

*Secretary of State.*

My visit to Baltimore resulted in a detail of the state oyster police steamer, Captain Charles G. B. Mitchell, by our State Board of Public Works, for my service in the arduous labors of our boundary line survey on the Chesapeake bay.

Letter to General Wright.

POCOMOKE CITY, MD., July 25, 1883.

GEN. WRIGHT, *Corps Engineers, War Department, Washington, D. C.*

SIR: I have the honor to request you to inform me of the probable cost and expense of your engineer officer, when detailed by the honorable secretary of war to aid in a survey of the line between Maryland and Virginia. We understand such expenses are to be borne by the two states.

Very respectfully, and obediently,

WM. J. AYDELOTT,

*Commissioner for Maryland.*

To the above I received the following reply:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, UNITED STATES ARMY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 26, 1883.

MR. WILLIAM J. AYDELOTT, *Commissioner for Maryland.*

SIR: In reply to your letter of the 25th inst., requesting to be informed of the probable cost and expense of the survey of the line between Maryland and Virginia, I have to state that the cost of making the survey was estimated by Lieutenant D. W. Lockwood, corps of engineers, May 2d, 1879, as \$3,600.

By direction of the chief of engineers.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. M. ADAMS,

*Captain of Engineers*

My second letter to General Wright.

POCOMOKE CITY, MD., July 28, 1883.

GEN. WRIGHT, *Corps Engineers, War Department, Washington, D. C.*

SIR: I have your favor of 26th inst.; I regret you did not understand the purport of my enquiries I had the honor to make of you by letter of 25th inst.; the information desired, is to be informed of the probable expense and cost of your engineer officer alone. I have the honor to remain,

Your obedient servant,

WM. J. AYDELOTT,

*Commissioner for Maryland.*

Second letter from General Wright.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, UNITED STATES ARMY,

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 30, 1883.

MR. WILLIAM J. AYDELOTT, *Commissioner for Maryland.*

SIR: In reply to your letter of 28th ult. I have to state that the detail of an engineer officer to aid the joint commission in running the boundary line between the States of Virginia and Maryland, as contemplated in the letters of the honorable the secretary of war to the governors of those states, dated June 16, 1883, has not been made, the secretary of war having received no letter from the governor of Virginia signifying acceptance of the conditions therein stated. A letter from the governor of Virginia to the secretary of war, dated June 26, 1883, stated his intention

to further notify the department so soon as details could be arranged with Governor Hamilton, of Maryland.

By direction of acting chief of engineers.

Very respectfully your obedient servant,

H. M. ADAMS,  
*Captain of Engineers.*

My third letter to General Wright.

POCOMOKE CITY, MD., August 31, 1883.

GEN. WRIGHT, *Corps Engineers, Washington, D. C.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that I am advised by his excellency, William E. Cameron, Governor of Virginia, as well as by the state executive department of Maryland, that Virginia and Maryland, respectively, will defray the expenses of your engineer that has been or may be detailed to run, &c., the line between our two states. And that the honorable secretary of war has been so informed by each of said governors.

Very respectfully and obediently,

WM. J. AYDELOTT,  
*Commissioner for Maryland.*

In reply to the above I received promptly the following:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, UNITED STATES ARMY,  
WASHINGTON, September 26, 1883.

MR. WILLIAM J. AYDELOTT, *Commissioner for Maryland.*

SIR: Replying to your letter of the 24th I have to enclose herewith copy of a letter from the adjutant-general, United States army, relative to the detail of Lieutenant F. V. Abbot, corps of engineers, to assist in running the boundary line between Maryland and Virginia, and to state Lieutenant Abbot was authorized yesterday by letter from this office to undertake the work.

By direction of the chief of engineers.

Very respectfully your obedient servant,

H. M. ADAMS,  
*Captain of Engineers.*

First letter from Lieutenant Frederick V. Abbot.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, UNITED STATES ARMY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., October 5, 1883.

MR. WILLIAM J. AYDELOTT,

*Commissioner for Maryland Southern Boundary Survey.*

SIR: Having been informed by the chief of engineers U. S. army, that I am authorized to do certain work, for which the



legislatures of Maryland and Virginia have appropriated \$3,600 conjointly, I have the honor to request that yourself and the commissioner for Virginia, appoint a place and day for me to meet you together, that I may have a clear understanding of the nature of the work I have to perform; the sooner this conference takes place, the sooner I can begin work.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FRED. V. ABBOT,  
*First Lieutenant of Engineers.*

The above was answered promptly.

Letter to Commissioner Bozwell.

POCOMOKE CITY, MD., October 8, 1883.

DEAR MR. BOZWELL.

Since writing to you two days ago, I have this morning received the enclosed communication from Lieutenant Abbot, on the subject of our boundary line survey.

In my reply to that officer a moment ago, I have suggested Thursday morning, 11th inst., as the time, and Pocomoke City as the place for our first meeting with him; that is the most available point to the field of action.

I remain, with great respect, faithfully yours,

WM. J. AYDELOTT.

The above correspondence contains but a part of letters written and received by me, in arranging for the important work now before us.

1883, October 11th. Pursuant to my suggestions Lieutenant Abbot and Commissioner Bozwell met me at the Clarke House, in Pocomoke City. The day was pleasantly and profitably spent in arranging the preliminaries for our work. Lieutenant Abbot required the engagement of Mr. Donal Greyk, of St. Louis, as assistant and recorder, at fifty dollars per month and expenses paid by the respective states, which was accepted, Lieutenant Abbot then being compelled to proceed to Willet's point, New York, to obtain instruments for use in our survey. The commission adjourned to meet at the same place 18th December. But neither Mr. Bozwell or our officer met me on that day. But next morning, December 19th, Lieutenant Abbot met me at the Clarke House. Mr. Bozwell not present. After some discussion as to

proper methods to adopt in making our survey, Lieutenant Abbot submitted the following paper :

CLARKE HOUSE, POCOMOKE CITY, October 19, 1883.

*To the Commissioner for Maryland Boundary Survey.*

SIR: I agree to undertake to run the boundary line between Maryland and Virginia under the following express conditions :

1st. I am to be unhampered in my selection of methods to be employed in conducting the survey ; I am to decide whether the line be run directly, or whether offsets be made to avoid obstacles.

2d. I am to do the work as rapidly as is possible, but shall not be hurried when time for computation, &c., is needed.

3d. I am to have actual expenses paid while actually on the survey—this to be interpreted from to-day, 'till I leave this part of the country, immediately after the survey is completed.

4th. I am to receive mileage at eight cents a mile for the following journeys, which were, or are necessary for the survey, as agreed upon between the secretary of war and the Governors of Maryland and Virginia, to wit: From St. Louis to Washington—Washington to Pocomoke—Pocomoke to Willet's point—Willet's point to Pocomoke—Pocomoke to St. Louis; all by the shortest possible usually traveled routes.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FRED. V. ABBOT,

*First Lieutenant Engineers.*

Although I saw objectionable points in this paper, I accepted it as a whole, rather than prevent further delay of the work, in the absence of Commissioner Bozwell.

Then Lieutenant Abbot and myself proceeded at once to the residence of Mr. John Brittingham, of Virginia, very near the state line, where I had previously engaged excellent quarters for our officer and his assistant, this being decidedly the best and most commodious quarters to be found, either in private or public house—consisting of a large parlor chamber, with heater, and as many other upper rooms as said officers might require.

There we found Mr. Hiram Brittingham, previously engaged as flag bearer, and two colored men as birch choppers, awaiting our arrival.

We at once proceeded to the Calvert and Scarborough line, and experimental work commenced.

Next morning, Mr. Donal Creyk, of St. Louis, arrived and entered upon the duties of advance flag bearer and recorder for our engineer as previously engaged; after some days' delay by our engineer, awaiting a clear, starlight night, to enable him to ascertain solar points to his satisfaction, work on the line was actively resumed; off-sets, triangulating and experimental lines, run without very satisfactory results for several days.

On the first day of November, Commissioner Bozwell joined us on the line for the first time, and experimental surveys continued several days longer.

By previous arrangements, the commission and force met at Crisfield, Captain Charles J. B. Mitchell, steamer Leila, of the Maryland State Oyster Police Force, on 20th November, and proceeded to the work of locating as far as then possible, the state line on the Chesapeake bay; we visited Smith's point, and after proper observations, erected a granite stone boulder on that point; thence we proceeded to the west end of Smith's island, and after considerable engineering, erected a granite stone boulder there, as near possible as indicated in the award of arbitrators; thence we visited Horse hammock, east end of Smith's island, and there erected a granite boulder and two iron guide pipes twenty feet long, that will be more fully explained in the report of our engineer; thence we proceeded with great care and caution to find and locate "Watkin's point," which, after much research, we satisfied ourselves we had done, when we then erected a granite stone boulder on the point, and two iron guide pipes on Great Fox island, as will also be explained in our engineer's report. With this historic point thus located, we completed the work on Chesapeake bay that is required to be done, and all that seemed practicable under the award, for us to accomplish, in order to establish a water-line between the states, in the Chesapeake bay, except the erection of two buoys or guide signals in Pocomoke sound, which the advanced season then rendered it impracticable to attempt successfully; the erection of the two signals named in the Pocomoke sound we deem to be of vast importance, and I propose, with the concurrence of the commissioner for Virginia, to undertake to do the same as soon as the spring weather will justify.



We detained the steamer *Leila* about twelve days in our service; that was indispensable. And many thanks are due and are hereby tendered to that urbane and efficient commander, Captain Charles J. B. Mitchell, and to each of his gallant officers and men, for their fidelity and uniform courtesy towards us. Having thus completed our survey on the Chesapeake for the season, we returned home and at once resumed work on the Calvert and Scarborough line. At nearly every public crossing from one state to the other a granite stone boulder was erected as we completed our tracing of the line.

About the 8th of December Lieutenant Abbot was taken sick, and consequently all field work was suspended for a few days. When Mr. Bozwell returned to his home, field work was resumed on 15th December, when I wrote Commissioner Bozwell as follows:

POCOMOKE CITY, MD., December 15, 1883.

DEAR MR. BOZWELL: Although a very cold morning, with high and piercing wind, Lieutenant Abbot resumed field work after his late attack of catarrh fever. I am just from the line, where I left them progressing rapidly. My own health is better, but my lips are yet terribly blistered. Please join us at your earliest convenience. A few days more and our work on the Calvert and Scarborough line will be completed.

Truly yours,

WM. J. AYDELOTT.

On the 19th December, 1883, the Pocomoke river was reached; our last granite stone boulder erected on the east bank of the river, and the labor of our survey of the Calvert and Scarborough line ended in the afternoon of a cold, rainy day.

I think the eastern terminus of our line and location of our stone boulder, near the ocean, is some 80 feet too far north; and the western terminus and location of our boulder on the east bank of the Pocomoke river is some 275 feet too far south, thus gaining for Virginia a small strip on the east, and gain to Maryland a little over three times as much land on the west end of the line. Yet several miles from the river and Chincoteague bay, respectively, several old traditionary line trees were found and marked in common with other trees in line. The number of these

old historic trees have greatly diminished during the past sixteen years, when then, as Maryland's commissioner, I accompanied Lieutenant John DeLecamp, corps United States engineers, in his admirable tracing of the old Calvert and Scarborough line with great accuracy and satisfaction to both states. One of these venerable trees deserves more than a passing notice. If there is any truth in tradition, this oak was found and marked by Calvert and Scarborough in May, 1663, and all along down the ages noted as "the marriage tree." Under the shade of this venerable tree, the writer, in his younger days, has witnessed the fair maidens of Virginia join right hands with the hardy sons of Maryland, and the venerable minister of Christ pronounce them husband and wife. This sacred old tree was in turn marked by Mihler and DeLecamp, and now by Abbot. But if we may judge by its present vigor it seems to defy the steel of all of these, and may yet breast the storms of a few more hundred years.

"May the woodman ever spare that tree."

I believe I have, in person, been in the field every day of our survey except two days, when under a temporary attack of malarial fever.

Including a personal visit to Annapolis, Richmond and Baltimore, respectively, as appears in my correspondence, I have spent about sixty-five days in the service of Maryland. I have paid one equal half (Maryland's share) of all the expenses of the survey in every particular. There remains several hundred dollars of the appropriation to the credit of the state, as will definitely appear in my financial account and exhibit to your excellency, that will be submitted as soon as Lieutenant Abbot completes the maps of the line, that I can make a final settlement with that officer.

As an act of mutual justice to both states, Mr. Bozwell, the Virginia commissioner, and myself, have very cordially agreed to recommend that all citizens of the State of Maryland who have heretofore planted oysters in the Chincoteague bay or the Chesapeake bay, on the south side of this line, as by us defined, between Maryland and Virginia, and north of what has heretofore been considered the true line, upon the supposition that they were planting oysters in the State of Maryland, shall have

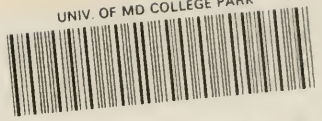
the same right of property and possession of said oysters thus planted, as citizens of Virginia, for the space of two years; and *vice versa*, in strict accord, with all citizens of Virginia who have heretofore planted oysters north of said new line, under the supposition that they were planting oysters in the State of Virginia. Respectfully submitted.

WM. J. AYDELOTT,

*Commissioner for Maryland.*



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